

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 INT-08 SCEM-02 AF-10 /241 W

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R 300920Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8487

INFO USINT CARIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15573

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG PFOR JA XF

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST - TEMPORARY RELIEF FROM PRESSURE

SUMMARY: CHARGE NOV 29 CALLED ON DIRGEN MOFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU OKAWARA FOR A GENERAL REVIEW OF SITUATION AND GOJ THINKING FOLLOWING GOJ NOV 22 MIDDLE EAST POLICY STATEMENT. NOTING FAVORABLE, THOUGH GENERAL AND PERSONAL REACTIONS IN SEVERAL ARAB CAPITALS AND NEGATIVE COMMENTS IN EUROPE, OKAWARA SAID BOTH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY FEEL PRESSURE HAS TEMPORARILY BEEN RELIEVED. HE INDICATED NO ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN AT THIS TIME TO FURTHER JAPANESE INITIATIVES. MISSION OF SPECIAL ENVOY MIKI TO MIDDLE EAST HAS NOT JELLED COMPLETELY, BUT INDICATIONS ARE THAT HE PROBABLY WILL GO IN EARLY DEC. MIKI PROBABLY WILL EMPHASIZE JAPANESE SUPPORT FOR ME SETTLEMENT, AND  
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CONCENTRATE ON DISCUSSIONS OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL

ASSISTANCE, WHILE REFRAINING FROM COMMENTS ON MEANING OF "RECONSIDER" PHRASE IN JAPANESE NOV 22 STATEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN GENERAL REVIEW OF PRESENT SITUATION AND GOJ THINKING ABOUT IMMEDIATE FUTURE, OKAWARA TOLD CHARGE NOV 29 THAT ARAB REACTIONS TO GOJ STATEMENT HAVE IN GENERAL BEEN FAVORABLE, BUT CONTAINED NO SPECIFIC RESPONSES. GOJ HAS NOT LEARNED BEYOND PRESS REPORTS WHAT WAS DECIDED AT ALGIERS AND IS NOT CLEAR HOW DECISION TO EXEMPT JAPAN FROM NEXT 5 PERCENT CUT WILL ACTUALLY BE IMPLEMENTED. OKAWARA COMMENTED THAT IN EUROPE INITIAL REACTIONS TO GOJ STATEMENT HAVE BEEN CRITICAL. HE NOTED THAT, IN ADDITION TO "RECONSIDER" PHRASE IN JAPANESE STATEMENT, GOJ ALSO WENT BEYOND EUROPEAN RESPONSE TO ARAB PRESSURES IN REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM "ALL" OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

2. OKAWARA SAID, IN ANY EVENT, MOOD IN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND GOVERNMENT AT LARGE, AS WELL AS JAPANESE INDUSTRY, HAD RELAXED SOMEWHAT IN WAKE OF NOV 22 POLICY INITIATIVE. HE SAID THERE IS NO ACTIVE CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO FURTHER INITIATIVES AT THIS TIME, EITHER TOWARD ISRAEL OR OTHER ASPECTS OF PROBLEM. POSSIBLE VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST OF DEPUTY PRIME MIN MIKI AS SPECIAL ENVOY IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION, BUT OKAWARA SAID MIKI HAD NOT FINALLY AGREED TO UNDERTAKE MISSION. QUESTIONS ABOUT TIMING, ITINERARY, AND TALKING POINTS TO BE USED WITH ARABS WERE STILL BEING DISCUSSED. HE THOUGHT MIKI WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO URGE ME SETTLEMENT, ASK FOR VIEWS ON WHAT USEFUL ROLE JAPAN MIGHT PLAY, DISCUSS ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ARAB STATES, AND AVOID COMMENTING ON FURTHER ACTIONS JAPAN MIGHT TAKE TOWARD ISRAEL UNDER "RECONSIDER" PHRASE IN GOJ STATEMENT. HE FELT MIKI WOULD NOT BE ABLE DIRECTLY TO DISCUSS PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED FLOW OF OIL.

3. OKAWARA WENT ON TO SAY THAT MANY IN GOVERNMENT  
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NOW COMING TO REALIZE THAT EVEN IF ARABS RELAX CUT-BACKS OR THERE IS A SETTLEMENT, JAPAN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COUNT ON RETURN TO FREE FLOW OF OIL. HE SAID ARABS OBVIOUSLY PLAN TO CONSERVE THIS VALUABLE RESOURCE AND SEEK MAXIMUM PROFIT ON OIL SOLD. BOTH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THIS.

4. COMMENT: GOJ NOV 28 MADE LOCAL HEADLINES

WITH OSTENSIBLY OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF MIKI MISSION TO MIDDLE EAST. WHILE OKAWARA'S DESCRIPTION OF STATUS OF PLANNING FOR MISSION MAY REFLECT DIFFICULTIES BEING ENCOUNTERED IN CLEARLY DEFINING MIKI'S TASKS -- AND MIKI'S OWN RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT FUZZY, POSSIBLY AWKWARD INSTRUCTIONS -- FONOFF DEP HEAD MIDDLE EAST DIV JIBIKI TOLD EMBOFF SEPARATELY NOV 29 THAT MIKI TRIP PROBABLY WILL BE LAUNCHED EARLY DEC, POSSIBLY EARLY NEXT WEEK. JIBIKI ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT MIKI WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO RESTATE GOJ POSITION AND AVOID BREAKING NEW GROUND. ACCORDING TO JIBIKI, FONOFF BASICALLY OPPOSED TO MIKI MISSION BECAUSE NOT CLEAR WHAT HE CAN ACCOMPLISH AND MIGHT DRAW FURTHER ARAB PRESSURE. BUSINESS COMMUNITY, HOWEVER, PUTTING STRONG PRESSURE ON TANAKA, WHO HAS FINALLY AGREED TO GO AHEAD WITH PLAN.

5. OKAWARA'S COMMENTS ABOUT LIKELIHOOD OF OIL SCARCITY REGARDLESS OF HOW ME SITUATION DEVELOPS WERE ALSO ECHOED PUBLICLY BY MITI MINISTER NAKASONE. HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR REPORTED ALGIERS DECISION, BUT HE CAUTIONED JAPAN THAT ARAB DECISION "HAD NOT COMPLETELY ENDED" JAPAN'S OIL CRISIS. NAKASONE IS ASSUMING CREDIT FOR JAPAN'S PRO-ARAB MOVE, SAYING HE HAD LONG RECOMMENDED IT.  
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**TAGS:** ENRG, PFOR, JA, XF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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